

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer implemented method for task execution based on dialog-based communication with a communication service, comprising:

receiving dialog from a user, the dialog being directed to a specialized entity;
analyzing the dialog to identify a command; and
performing a task on the user's behalf based on the command.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the dialog to identify a command comprises analyzing the dialog to determine which of a variety of applications is necessary to complete the task.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising determining whether the user is authorized to utilize the application necessary to complete the task, and performing the task only if the user is authorized.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized when the user is not authorized to utilize the application necessary to complete the task.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized comprises presenting the user with an opportunity to purchase access.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing the specialized entity to participate in dialog interaction with the user to guide the user in the production of said dialog.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein utilizing the specialized entity to participate in dialog interaction with the user comprises:

presenting the user with a plurality of choices;

and

receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality of choices.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the selection of one of the plurality of choices.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to a parameter listed in a profile associated with the user.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to a preference associated with the user.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the preference is set by the user.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the preference is automatically set based on a history of user interactions with the specialized entity.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a geographic location of a device with which the user is communicating with the communication service.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the geographic location.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is an instant message communication service, and wherein receiving dialog from the user comprises receiving instant message dialog.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the dialog is directed to a specialized buddy appearing on an instant messaging buddy list associated with the user.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is a text messaging communication service, and wherein receiving dialog from the user comprises receiving text messaging dialog.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is an email transport service, and wherein receiving dialog from a user comprises receiving an email addressed to the specialized recipient.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein analyzing the dialog to identify a command comprises parsing a textual content of the email.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is an automated telephone system, and wherein receiving dialog from a user comprises receiving speech communication.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the dialog to identify a command comprises analyzing the dialog to identify a keyword.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a software application on behalf of the user to perform a task.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises sending an action command to instruct a software application to take action on the user's behalf.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a calendar software application.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein execution of the command is contingent upon a set of predetermined circumstances, and wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task when the predetermined set of circumstances have occurred.

26. A computer implemented method for directing a server, comprising:

requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a specialized entity.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises transmitting a command to access one of a plurality of applications.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises selecting one of a plurality of choices presented through a user interface associated with the communication service.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the task is tailored to the selected one of the plurality of choices.

30. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
configuring a user profile; and
wherein requesting performance of a task
comprises requesting performance of a task
tailored to a parameter listed in the user
profile.

31. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting
performance of a task comprises requesting
performance of a task tailored to a user preference.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein requesting
performance of a task tailored to a user preference
comprises requesting performance of a task tailored
to a preference set by the user.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein requesting
performance of a task tailored to a user preference
comprises requesting performance of a task tailored
to a preference that is automatically set based on a
history of user interactions.

34. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting
performance of a task by way of dialog-based
communication directed through a communication
service to a specialized entity comprises requesting
performance of a task by way of instant messaging
communication directed through an instant messaging
service.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through an instant messaging communication service to a specialized entity comprises requesting performance through the instant messaging service to a specialized buddy appearing on an instant messaging buddy list.

36. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a specialized entity comprises requesting performance of a task by way of text messaging dialog directed through a text messaging communication service.

37. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a specialized entity comprises requesting performance of a task by way of an email message addressed to the specialized entity and directed through an email transport service.

38. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a specialized entity comprises requesting performance of a task by way of telephone dialog directed through an automated telephone system.

39. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting that a software application be accessed to perform a task on behalf of a user.

40. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting that an action command be forwarded to instruct a software application to take action on behalf of a user.

41. The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting performance of a task contingent upon a set of predetermined circumstances, wherein performance of the task happens when the predetermined set of circumstances have occurred.

42. A client-server system that enables a user to initiate task-execution through dialog-based communication with a specialized entity, comprising:

- a server having a communication service provider implemented thereon;

- a client device configured to enable the user to utilize dialog-based communication to interact with a specialized entity through the communication service provider, the communication service provider being configured to support the recognition and execution of a command communicated through

the dialog-based communication with the specialized entity, the command being a direction to perform a task on the user's behalf.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the recognition and execution of a command comprises determining which of a variety of applications is necessary to complete the task on the user's behalf.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is further configured to utilize the specialized entity to participate in dialog interaction with the user to guide the user towards a submission of the command.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein utilizing the specialized entity to participate in dialog interaction with the user comprises:

presenting the user with a plurality of choices;
and
receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality of choices.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the selection of one of the plurality of choices.

47. The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to a preference associated with the user.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein the preference is set by the user.

49. The method of claim 47, wherein the preference is automatically set based on a history of user interactions with the specialized entity.

50. The method of claim 42, wherein the client device further comprises a system for determining a geographic location of the client device.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the geographic location.

52. The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is an instant message communication service, and wherein the dialog-based communication is instant messaging communication.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the specialized entity is a specialized buddy appearing on an instant messaging buddy list associated with the user.

54. The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is a text messaging

communication service, and wherein the dialog-based communication is text messaging communication.

55. The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is an email transport service, and wherein the dialog-based communication is an email addressed to the specialized entity.

56. The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is an automated telephone system, and wherein the dialog-based communication is telephone communication.

57. The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a software application on behalf of the user to perform a task.

58. The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises sending an action command to instruct a software application to take action on the user's behalf.

59. The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a calendar software application.